



**STATE OF WISCONSIN \ DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
WISCONSIN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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**INFORMATION & GUIDANCE MEMO
02-01-03**

DATE: February 3, 2003

TO: County Emergency Management Directors

FROM: Edward J. Gleason
Administrator

SUBJECT: 2003 TORNADO & SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK
COORDINATION WITH SCHOOLS

Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Weather Service are sponsoring Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Week in Wisconsin during the week of April 7th through 11th, 2003.

The enclosed materials concerning tornado awareness and preparedness are being mailed to all elementary and secondary schools, as well as all school district administrators in the next week. All public schools will be covered by our mailing; however, not all private schools will be receiving this packet. Please be aware of their possible need for additional information.

The information provided to the schools is intended to raise the level of awareness of all students and staff concerning severe weather. It is hoped that students will take home this information to their families and discuss what they have learned at school. Please keep in mind that school officials have been advised to contact you if they have questions or need assistance with tornado or severe weather activities.

The National Weather Service will be conducting a statewide tornado drill on the afternoon of Thursday, April 10, 2003. The Tornado Watch will begin at 1:15 PM, and the Tornado Warning will be issued at 1:45 PM. *In the event of severe weather, the drill will move to the same times on Friday, April 11, 2003. If severe weather is present on Friday, the drill will be canceled.*

Counties, municipalities, and schools are participating in this drill on a voluntary basis. We encourage everyone to participate to the fullest extent possible. There is no requirement that anyone take an active role in the drill. If the date or timing of the state drill precludes a school from participating, it is important that schools conduct their own “in house” tornado drill at a more convenient time.

Additional resources and materials are available for severe weather awareness efforts. Your local American Red Cross chapter and National Weather Service Office can provide other information or materials for your county.

If you have any questions regarding the Tornado and Severe Weather Awareness Campaign, coordination with schools, or other information contained in this package, please contact your Regional Emergency Management Director.

ATTACHMENTS

DISTRIBUTION:

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* Previous Information & Guidance Memo 01-04-03, Citizen Corps Program Information